

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 OES-07 AID-05 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /062 W  
-----085441 262011Z /64

R 261832Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3876  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS MANAGUA 3515

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EPAP, NU  
SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON NICARAGUAN EFFORTS TO ERADICATE COFFEE  
RUST

REF: MANAGUA 0123 MANAGUA 0304

1. SINCE NOVEMBER, 1976, WHEN COFFEE RUST WAS FIRST DISCOVERED IN THE CARAZO REGION OF NICARAGUA, AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM OF ERADICATION HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE. THE INFESTED AREA HAS BEEN COMPLETELY QUARANTINED AND IS CONSTANTLY SURVEYED BY TEAMS OF WORKERS ARMED WITH IMPLEMENTS AND APRAYS. AN INFESTED TREE IS GENERALLY DESTROYED AND INTENSIVE SPRAYING OF SURROUNDING, HEALTHY TREES TAKES PLACE.

2. THE JUNE 27 ISSUE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURE (PUBLISHED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE) CONTAINS AN ARTICLE ON THE NICARAGUAN ERADICATION EFFORT AND NOTES THAT "FEW DISEASE-CONTROL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SO COMPREHENSIVE OR SWIFTLY IMPLEMENTED AS NICARAGUA'S ...." THE ARTICLE ALSO POINTS OUT THAT THERE IS SOME REASON FOR OPTIMISM FOR COMPLETE ERADICATION. (THIS HAS NEVER BEEN ACCOM-  
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PLISHED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, HOWEVER, EXCEPT IN AN ISOLATED AREA OF PAPUA, NEW GUINEA, WHERE THE RUST WAS ELIMINATED ONLY AT THE EXPENSE OF ENDING ALL COFFEE CULTIVATION IN THE INFESTED AREA.)

3. EMBASSY RECENTLY INQUIRED THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM. DURING THE WEEK ENDING JULY 15, A NEW OUTBREAK WAS DISCOVERED WITHIN THE QUARANTINED AREA. HOWEVER,

ONLY SEVEN LEAVES IN SEVEN TREES WERE FOUND TO BE INFESTED AND EACH LEAF HAD ONLY ONE "PATCH". THE EXPERTS ATTRIBUTE THIS LACK OF ACTIVITY TO THE EFFECTS OF THE FUNGICIDES WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY APPLIED. ON MONDAY, JULY 18, ANOTHER OUTBREAK WAS DISCOVERED IN THE SAME AREA, ALTHOUGH ONLY A SINGLE LEAF WAS FOUND TO BE INFESTED. NO OTHER INFESTATIONS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED.

4. FOREIGN EXPERTS HAD PREDICTED THAT AN EXPLOSIVE OUTBREAK OF THE RUST WOULD TAKE PLACE WHEN THE RAINY SEASON STARTED-AFTER APPROXIMATELY 1" OF RAINFALL. THE RAINS STARTED IN THE QUARANTINED AREA ON JULY 4 AND 8" OF RAIN HAS FALLEN AND THE PREDICTED EXPLOSIVE OUTBREAK HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE.

5. THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ROYA CONTINUES WITH THE SAME INTENSITY. APPROXIMATELY \$5 MILLION HAVE ALREADY BEEN SPENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ERADICATION PROGRAM, WHICH PRESENTLY EMPLOYS 1400 PEOPLE, INCLUDING TECHNICIANS AND WORKERS. IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM UNTIL THE END OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED A LOAN FOR \$5 MILLION FROM THE CENTRAL AMERICAN BANK FOR ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (CABEI). A PORTION OF THIS NEW LOAN WILL BE PAID AS COMPENSATION TO COFFEE GROWERS WHOSE PLANTATIONS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

6. NICARAGUAN PRESS HAS NOT AS YET PUBLICIZED NEW OUTBREAKS.  
RUBENSTEIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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